

Appl. No. : 09/049,857
Filed : March 27, 1998

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of treatment of a blood vessel in which blood fluid flows proximally to distally, said method comprising:

[utilizing] delivering an expandable device to form a barrier sufficient to inhibit emboli suspended in said fluid from migrating past the barrier in a proximal to distal direction;

preventing emboli from moving in a distal to proximal direction by exposing said expandable device to blood [utilizing] fluid pressure within said vessel [to inhibit migration of said emboli in a distal to proximal direction];

B3
advancing a catheter having a lumen in fluid communication with a distal opening in the catheter, said advancing comprising moving said distal opening relative to said expandable device within the blood vessel such that said opening is distal to at least a portion of an occlusive substance within said blood vessel, said occlusive substance comprising said emboli suspended in said fluid;

drawing fluid from the vessel into the distal opening such that (a) a fluid flow is created in the lumen in a distal to proximal direction, and (b) said fluid flow is simultaneously created in said vessel in a proximal to distal direction, whereby said emboli are carried by said fluid flow from said vessel into said distal opening and through said lumen of said catheter.

B4
3. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, 2, wherein said advancing comprises moving said distal opening such that said distal opening is distal to at least some of the [emboli] material on the wall of the vessel.

B5
20. (Amended) The method of Claim 17, wherein said aspiration catheter comprises a hollow lumen and a separate [first catheter] second lumen for receiving said first catheter, and wherein said aspiration catheter is delivered by inserting a proximal end of said first catheter into said [first catheter] second lumen, and slidably advancing said [first catheter] second lumen of said aspiration catheter over said first catheter.

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B6
50. (Amended) The method of Claim 49, wherein said distal end of said debris removal device [in] is inserted at least one time to a position no more than about 5 cm proximal said occlusive device.

52. (Amended) A method of treatment of a blood vessel in which blood flows proximally to distally, said method comprising:

[utilizing] delivering an expandable device to form a barrier sufficient to inhibit emboli suspended in said blood from migrating past the barrier in a proximal to distal direction;

preventing emboli from moving in a distal to proximal direction by exposing said expandable device to blood flowing in a proximal to distal direction [utilizing fluid pressure within said vessel to inhibit migration of said emboli in a distal to proximal direction];

B7
advancing a catheter having a lumen in fluid communication with a distal opening in the catheter, said advancing comprising moving said distal opening relative to said expandable device within the blood vessel such that said opening is distal to at least a portion of an occlusive substance within said blood vessel, said occlusive substance comprising said emboli suspended in said blood;

drawing blood from the vessel into the distal opening such that (a) a blood flow is created in the lumen in a distal to proximal direction, and (b) said blood flow is simultaneously created in said vessel in a proximal to distal direction, whereby said emboli are carried by said blood flow from said vessel into said distal opening and through said lumen of said catheter.

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated June 22, 1999. Claims 1-59 remain pending. Reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Examiner Interview

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicant and Applicant's representative at the personal interview conducted on October 22, 1999. As discussed at the interview, the amendments presented above respond to the Examiner's rejections